

2 February

WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

by

F. W. BUNTING, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health for the Whiston Rural District



FOR THE YEAR 1960

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1909-10

Presented to the House of Commons by the Secretary of State for the Colonies



WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

*The Chairman and Members of the
Whiston Rural District Council*

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the health of the Whiston Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1960.

I am happy to report that the health of the community has remained satisfactory during the year.

The adjusted death rate was 11.9 per thousand compared with 11.5 for England and Wales.

The adjusted birth rate of 20.6 continues to be higher than the rate for England and Wales which was 17.1

The infant mortality rate was 27.6 per thousand live births. The rate for England and Wales was 21.7

There was 1 maternal death notified during the year.

During the year 362 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified and of these 188 were cases of Measles and 54 cases of Whooping Cough.

The incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis continues to decrease. 15 cases were notified compared with 24 during the previous year. There was only 1 death. No cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

No cases of Diphtheria or Poliomyelitis were notified.

The demolition of unfit houses continued, details of which are included in the section of the report concerning housing.

The year saw the introduction of smoke control in the Council's new Housing Estate at Sugar Lane, Knowsley. This was achieved by a condition of tenancy and as the tenants were to be moved from an existing Estate it was possible to carry out a detailed survey explaining the purpose of the requirements of this step.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Health Committee for their support and encouragement during the year and also to the Officials of the Council, in particular to Mr. Corscadden the Chief Public Health Inspector, for their assistance at all times.

I have the honour to be,

your obedient Servant,

F. W. BUNTING.



WHISTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department

Officers :

Medical Officer of Health

F. W. BUNTING, M.D., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector H. CORSCADDEN

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1960

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District in acres	23,750
Population at Census—1951	45,053
Registrar General's estimate of home population—Mid 1960 ...	41,640
Density of Population (<i>i.e.</i> , number of persons per acre based on mid-year population)	1.75
Number of inhabited houses (1951 Census)	10,820
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1960 according to rate book)	11,905
Rateable Value	£521,175
Sum represented by a penny rate	£2,098

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Live Births—		
Males : 436	Females : 396	832
Rate per 1,000 estimated population		20.6
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births		3.3
Still Births—		
Males : 5	Females : 13	18
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births		21.2
Total live and still births		850
Infant deaths (deaths under 1 year) Male : 15	Female : 8	23
Infant Mortality Rates—		
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births		27.6
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births		27.3
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births		35.7
Neo-natal mortality (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)		16.8

Early neo-natal mortality (deaths under 1 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	15.6
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births)	36.5
Maternal Mortality including abortion—	
Number of deaths....	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	1.18
Deaths—	
Males : 219 Females : 212	431
Rate per 1,000 population—Crude	10.4
Adjusted	11.9
Excess of births over deaths	401
Death rate from influenza per 1,000 of the population ....	.02
Death rate from cancer per 1,000 of the population	1.66
Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis per 1,000 of the population ....	.02
Death rate from measles per 1,000 of the population	Nil
Death rate from whooping cough per 1,000 of the population	Nil
Percentage of total deaths occurring in Hospitals etc.	60.04

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1960—

Causes of Death	TOTAL	Under 1 yr	1-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65-74 yrs.	75 yrs and over
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Tuberculosis (Others)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasms—									
Stomach	13	—	—	—	—	—	5	3	5
Lungs, bronchus	13	—	—	—	—	1	6	5	1
Breast	9	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	2
Uterus	4	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	29	—	—	—	—	3	10	14	2
Leukaemia	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Diabetes	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Vascular lesions—									
nervous system	45	—	—	—	—	3	14	11	16
Coronary disease, angina ...	65	—	—	—	—	2	17	15	31
Hypertension with heart disease	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2
Other heart diseases	39	—	—	—	1	1	8	8	21
Other circulatory diseases ...	25	—	—	—	—	—	8	8	9
Influenza	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	34	3	—	1	—	3	5	10	12
Bronchitis	25	—	—	—	—	—	8	11	6
Other diseases—									
respiratory system	6	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	9	—	1	—	—	—	3	2	3
Hypertension of prostate ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Congenital malformation	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other defined and ill defined diseases ...	56	11	1	—	1	1	8	10	24
Motor vehicle accidents	8	—	—	—	—	2	3	1	2
All other accidents	14	1	—	2	—	1	1	4	5
Suicide	6	—	—	—	1	—	5	—	—
Homicide and War	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	431	23	3	3	4	21	111	113	153

DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM—

The following table shows death rates per 1,000 of the population from diseases of the respiratory system which occurred in the Rural District, together with corresponding data for England and Wales.

Diseases	Whiston R.D.	England & Wales
Influenza ....	.02	.02
Pneumonia ....	.81	.55
Bronchitis ....	.60	.58
Other diseases of respiratory system	.14	.11
Cancer of lung and bronchus ....	.31	.48
Respiratory tuberculosis ....	.02	.06

CAUSES OF ACCIDENTAL DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS—1960.

	Under 1 yr.	1—4 yrs.	5—14 yrs.	15—44 yrs.	45—64 yrs.	65—74 yrs.	75 yrs. and over	All Ages
Road traffic accidents	—	—	—	2	3	1	2	8
Falls	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	8
Works accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drowning	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Burns	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Other accidental deaths	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	4
TOTALS	1	—	2	3	4	2	10	22

INFANT MORTALITY—

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	11	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	11
Congenital malformations	2	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	5
Post natal asphyxia and atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3
Birth injuries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastro enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Haemolytic diseases of newborn	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
TOTALS	13	1	—	—	14	7	2	—	—	23

VITAL STATISTICS

The following figures based on the Registrar General's 1960 birth and death returns, together with case rates for certain infectious diseases for England and Wales are shown together with corresponding data in respect of the Whiston Rural District.

	England and Wales	Whiston R.D.
	Rate per 1,000 population mid- 1960—45,755,000	Rate per 1,000 population mid- 1960—41,640
Births :		
Live births	17.1	20.6 (c)
Still-births	19.7 (a)	21.2 (a)
Deaths :		
All causes	11.5	11.9 (c)
Tuberculosis (all forms)	0.075	0.02
Respiratory	0.068	0.02
Non-respiratory	0.007	Nil
Cancer (all forms)	2.16	1.66
Lung and bronchus ..	0.48	.31
Other cancer	1.68	1.35
Maternal mortality (total)	0.39 (a)	1.18 (a)
Maternal causes	0.31 (a)	1.18 (a)
(excluding abortion)		
Due to abortion .	0.08 (a)	Nil
Infant mortality	21.7 (b)	27.6 (b)
Neo-natal mortality	15.6 (b)	16.8 (b)
Notifications (Corrected) :		
Typhoid Fever	0.002	0.024
Paratyphoid Fever	0.005	0.000
Meningococcal Infection ..	0.014	0.120
Scarlet Fever	0.703	0.52
Whooping Cough	1.268	1.296
Diphtheria ...	0.001	0.000
Erysipelas	0.065	0.024
Smallpox	0.000	0.000
Measles	3.482	4.512
Acute Pneumonia	0.318	0.216
(Primary & Influenzal)		
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	0.006	0.000
(Non Paralytic) ...	0.003	0.000
Encephalitis (Infective) ...	0.003	0.000
(Post infectious) ..	0.003	0.000
Dysentery	0.946	0.240
Food Poisoning	0.169	0.000
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0.192	1.368
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ...	0.462	0.360
(Meninges & C.N.S.) ..	0.004	0.000
(Other) ...	0.058	0.000

(a) Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

(b) Per 1,000 related births.

(c) Adjusted rate.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE—

(i) Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

DISEASES	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	22	3	—
Para-typhoid	—	—	—
Dysentery....	10	4	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	57	57	—
Acute Pneumonia	9	4	1
Erysipelas ...	1	1	—
Opthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	1	1	—
Meningococcal Infection	5	5	—
Measles	188	1	—
Whooping Cough	54	7	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Acute Polioencaphelitis	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	15	9	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—

(ii) Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during the year—1960

AGE PERIOD — YEARS

Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	25 and over
Scarlet Fever	22	1	—	1	4	4	12	—	—	—
Whooping	54	5	7	7	6	7	20	2	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(Non Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	188	12	21	21	39	25	67	2	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery....	10	2	—	—	1	—	3	1	1	2
Meningococcal Infection	5	2	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS....	279	22	28	30	50	36	104	5	2	2

AGE PERIOD — YEARS

	Total Cases	0—	5—	15—	45—	65 and over
Acute Pneumonia (Primary and Influenzal)	9	1	1	3	2	2
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis Infective	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post Infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	1	—	—	—	1	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Respiratory	15	—	—	11	3	1
Meninges and C.N.S.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	57	—	—	57	—	—
TOTALS ...	83	1	1	71	7	3

TUBERCULOSIS

Details of cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease during 1960 will be found in the following table :—

AGE PERIODS (Years)	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—19	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—24	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—64	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	6	9	—	—	1	—	—	—

WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supplies of the district are obtained from three main sources :

Liverpool Corporation	—	Upland surface water
St. Helens Corporation	—	Deep wells
Widnes Corporation	—	Deep wells

The development of the district resulted in extensions of the water mains throughout the district as follows :—

Liverpool Corporation	—	To new Houses.
	—	455 yds. of 6 in.
	—	394 yds. of 5 in.
	—	4,938 yds. of 4 in.
	—	125 yds. of 3 in.
	—	To other development
St. Helens Corporation	—	230 yds. of 3 in.
	—	To new Houses.
	—	596 yds. of 4 in.
	—	10 yds. of 3 in.
	—	To other development
Widnes Corporation	—	2,000 yds. of 21 in.
	—	103 yds. of 8 in.
	—	To other development
	—	60 yds. of 10 in.
	—	1,916 yds. of 6 in.

Houses connected to public mains — New houses : 479.

The overall supply at the end of the year from public mains was to 12,094 houses serving an estimated population of 43,185, whilst 6 dwelling-houses received their supply from standpipes connected to the public main.

In the Parish of Knowsley the excessive iron content of the water has been reduced to a reasonable level and is now satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

In the Parish of Rainhill work commenced during the year on sewage works extensions with the provision of 4 extra sludge beds, a new storm water tank, 2 new filter beds, 80 ft. diameter revolving distributor and a new humus tank. New sewerage consisted of 100 yds.—12 in., 93 yds.—15 in., 87 yds.—18 in., 123 yds.—21 in., 560 yds.—27 in., 701 yds.—30 in., 171 yds.—33 in., and 130 yds.—39 in. 383 new houses built in the Rural District were connected to the sewage system during the year and 9 to approved septic tanks. A campaign to accelerate the conversion of privy middens was instituted and the total has now been brought down to 43.

CLEAN AIR.

The work carried out by the three Schools within the area i.e. Notre Dame High School for Girls, Longview Secondary Modern School and Whiston Secondary Modern Boys' School continued and the level of interest of the students was maintained.

The Council agreed in March to create the new Sugar Lane Estate at Knowsley as a smoke control area by condition of tenancy and the Department carried out survey work to acquaint the new tenants with their responsibilities. The full effect will not be known until the Estate is completed.

Preliminary enquiries and survey were also made within the Halewood area with a view to controlling new housing development in that area.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

The work of the full-time Rodent Operator continued and the following table indicates the number of inspections carried out.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY		
	Non-Agricultural		Agricul- tural
	Dwelling houses	All Other	
No. of properties in district	12,094	808	296
No. of properties inspected	183	38	40
Total inspections carried out	679	183	425
No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :			
Rats — major	—	—	—
minor	137	24	40
Mice — major	—	—	—
minor	32	14	—
No. of infested properties treated	169	38	40
Total treatments carried out	185	48	115

The routine control work was maintained throughout the year and the number of rats kept to a minimum. The bi-annual treatment of the sewers in the district indicated that the rat population is being kept within reasonable limits.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that the Department is being called upon to deal with pests other than rodents and that the whole field of pest control is being widened. It is not unusual to receive complaints of insect infestations i.e. wasps, ants, cockroaches and the various types of common fly.

It is of interest to note that a request was received from the Institute of Animal Genetics at Edinburgh for specimens of a species of fly, *Drosophila*, found on potato clumps. These were collected by the Department and transmitted to the Institute for research purposes.

SCHOOLS.

The total number of schools in the Rural District is 31 and whilst the majority are satisfactory in most respects some fall short by reason of : inadequate sanitary accommodation 2 : inadequate washing and drinking facilities 5.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The only offensive trade which exists in the district is that of a tripe boiler. Routine inspections show that the premises are kept in a satisfactory manner.

HOUSING.

481 houses were erected during the year and 18 houses demolished as unfit for human habitation.

During the year 1,895 visits were made to 1,326 premises in connection with the Public Health and Housing Acts. 100 informal notices were served and 9 statutory notices.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

These are concentrated on six sites. The main site comprises approximately 144 caravans and enjoys a high standard of amenities including mains water supply, proper drainage facilities and communal sanitary blocks which also include bathing facilities. Regular inspections are made during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

During the year 557 visits were made to food premises. 105 minor contraventions were found to exist and 89 were abated during the year. 27 informal notices were served and 23 were complied with. The types of food businesses in the district are as follows :—

General grocers and provision dealers	..	...	77
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those			
selling wet fish, game, etc)	...	...	14
Meat shops	....	....	15
Bakers and/or Confectioners	....	....	7
Fried fish shops	....	....	8
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionary,			
minerals, ice-cream, etc.	....	....	23
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens,			
restaurants, cafes, snack bars, etc	....	....	46
Others	....	....	7

The Public Health Inspectors continued their regular visits to the broiler house in Rainhill and it is pleasing to note that the standard of hygiene throughout the premises is being maintained at a high level. The following is the record of the total kill and number of birds condemned during 1960.

1,039,350 birds were killed and processed
 6,233 birds were condemned (0.59%)
 800 turkeys were also killed and processed

SAMPLING OF MILK AND ICE CREAM.

Details of Licensing : There are 20 dairies in the Rural District and 25 shops selling milk. The number of dealers' licences issued during the year in respect of "Tuberculin Tested" milk was 32, "Pasteurised" 39 and "Sterilised" 49. 5 samples of "Pasteurised" milk were submitted to the Laboratory for the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Test and 1 sample of "Sterilised" milk for the Turbidity test.

SHOPS.

19 inspections of shops under the Shops Act, 1950 were made during the year and all were found to be satisfactory.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and condemned at the licensed Slaughterhouse at Annexe Farm.

		<i>Cattle excluding cows</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	....	41	13
Number inspected	....	41	13

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	....	6	4
% of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	...	14.6	38.5

Cysticercosis :

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	....	3	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration		3	—

The inspection and examination of food stocks during the year resulted in the condemnation of the following :—

<i>Type of Food</i>	<i>Total quantity of stock or consignment exam- ined and found unfit for human consumption</i>
<i>Canned</i>	
Corned beef	28 lbs.
Cooked Ham	53 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Pickled onions	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During the year, the progressive reorganisation of the Cleansing Department has continued with particular emphasis being placed upon vehicle maintenance and repair and upon various factors which govern the system of collection and disposal.

Following the introduction of a quarterly maintenance competition, there has been a marked improvement in the general condition of the vehicles, this is particularly satisfying when the adverse conditions under which these vehicles operate are considered. The competition itself consists of a road check where penalty marks are deducted and a detailed inspection conducted by a Sub-Committee of the Council. Monetary awards are made to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Drivers in the competition.

During the year, a detailed survey has been carried out to ascertain the total number of premises, their situation, and the quantity of refuse involved. This was preparatory to a reorganisation of the various collection rounds with a view to cutting down unnecessary travelling time and generally improving the efficiency of the service.

In an attempt to provide better conditions for the men engaged on refuse collection and disposal, the Council agreed to provide hand-washing facilities on one of the vehicles as a trial, subject to the prototype unit being successful.

The general condition of the Whiston Tip has been satisfactory and the daily practice of covering all refuse tipped has proved to be the main factor in achieving this. Preparatory work is being carried out with a view to the progressive reclamation of the area.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	41	29	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecution were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	1	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)....	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	3	—	3	—

OUTWORK.

During the year notification was received of two outworkers employed in the manufacture of wearing apparel.



